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Diana T Fritz 02/05/2007 05:43:08 PM From DB/Inbox: Search Results

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Text:

UNCLAS ABU DHABI 03037

SIPDIS  
CXABU:

ACTION: POL  
INFO: PAO RSO AMB DCM P/M ECON  
Laser1:  
INFO: PAO

DISSEMINATION: POL  
CHARGE: PROG

APPROVED: A/DCM:HOWINDECKER  
DRAFTED: POL:RBASSIL  
CLEARED: POL:JFMAYBURY

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RR RUEHC RUCNDT RUEHZM  
DE RUEHAD #3037 2510639  
ZNR UUUUU ZZH  
R 070639Z SEP 04  
FM AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI  
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC 5800  
INFO RUCNDT/USMISSION USUN NEW YORK 0016  
RUEHZM/GULF COOPERATION COUNCIL COLLECTIVE

UNCLAS ABU DHABI 003037

SIPDIS

STATE FOR DRL, NEA/PI, AND NEA/ARP

E.O. 12958: N/A  
TAGS: [PGOV](#) [KWMN](#) [TC](#)  
SUBJECT: UAEG COMMITTED - IN PART - TO ELIMINATE  
DISCRIMINATION AGAINST WOMEN

REF: ABU DHABI 2095

11. THE UAEG HAS SIGNED THE UN CONVENTION ON THE ELIMINATION OF ALL FORMS OF DISCRIMINATION AGAINST WOMEN (CEDAW), BUT LIKE OTHER ISLAMIC COUNTRIES, THE UAE WILL NOT ENFORCE PROVISIONS OF THE CONVENTION THAT CONTRADICT SHARIA' LAW, OR UAE FAMILY LAW AND CUSTOMS. BY ACCEPTING THE CONVENTION, THE UAE COMMITS ITSELF TO UNDERTAKE A SERIES OF MEASURES TO END DISCRIMINATION AGAINST WOMEN, AND TO ESTABLISH TRIBUNALS AND OTHER PUBLIC INSTITUTIONS TO COMBAT DISCRIMINATION AGAINST WOMEN.

12. WHILE THIS IS ANOTHER CLEAR INDICATION THAT THE UAEG INTENDS TO GRADUALLY ELIMINATE DISCRIMINATION AGAINST WOMEN, THE GOVERNMENT IS NOT PREPARED TO REPLACE CERTAIN SHARIA' LAW PROVISIONS. FOR EXAMPLE, THEY DO NOT AGREE WITH PROVISIONS IN THE CONVENTION THAT WOULD GRANT WOMEN EQUAL RIGHTS WITH RESPECT TO THE NATIONALITY OF THEIR CHILDREN. NOR WILL THEY CONFORM TO PROPOSALS DEALING WITH ACQUIRING, CHANGING OR RETAINING A WOMAN'S NATIONALITY. IN ADDITION, THE UAE WOULD NOT ACCEPT PROVISIONS RELATED TO HOW A WOMEN ENTERS INTO MARRIAGE, CHOOSES A SPOUSE, RAISES CHILDREN, ADOPTS CHILDREN, CHOOSES A FAMILY NAME AND A PROFESSION, AND OWNS OR ADMINISTERS PROPERTY.

13. LOCAL PRESS INTERVIEWED 10 PROMINENT UAE WOMEN IN THE PUBLIC AND PRIVATE SECTORS. HESSA AL MIDFAA, AN APPOINTED MEMBER OF THE SHARJAH CONSULTATIVE COUNCIL, WAS OPTIMISTIC THAT JOINING THE CONVENTION WOULD EXPAND THE ROLE WOMEN PLAY IN THE SOCIETY AND COULD PAVE THE WAY FOR A WOMAN TO BE APPOINTED AS A GOVERNMENT MINISTER. "IT IS A MATTER OF TIME," SHE SAID. WHILE

THE MAJORITY OF THESE WOMEN BELIEVE THAT THE CONVENTION WOULD REMOVE SOME LEGAL RESTRICTIONS, THEY ALSO FELT THAT EXTENSIVE DISCRIMINATION AGAINST WOMEN STILL EXISTS. FOR INSTANCE, THEY BELIEVE THAT UAE STILL CUSTOMS RESTRICT WOMEN'S PARTICIPATION IN ECONOMIC AND POLITICAL AFFAIRS. SOME WOMEN SAID UAE WOMEN ALREADY ENJOY THE SAME RIGHTS AS MEN, AND THAT THE UAE CONSTITUTION GRANTS THEM THESE RIGHTS.

SISON